

**REMARKS**

Claims 15-23 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 24-28 are cancelled

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiners Young and Griffin in the August 7, 2007 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Restriction was required and Applicant elected Group I, claims 15-23. Applicant affirms the election and reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications based on non-elected claims 24-28.

Claims 15-20, 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP-A-10-89056 (JP'056), and claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP'056 in view of Gadkaree et al. (Gadkaree), U.S. Patent No. 5,750,026. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 15 calls for "an outermost peripheral cell positioned in an outermost periphery of the cell structural part and a predetermined number of cells (outer peripheral cells) positioned in an inner direction from the outermost peripheral cell among the cells are sealed by an inner peripheral surface of the outer wall in an end portion and/or an intermediate portion of at least one of the outermost peripheral cell and the outer peripheral cell in a central axis direction to form shielded cells which prevent the fluid from flowing" (emphasis added). Claim 22 calls for similar features.

JP'056 and Gadkaree fail to disclose or suggest all of the features called for in claims 15 and 22 because JP'056 and Gadkaree fail to disclose or suggest cells that are sealed.

As discussed during the personal interview, simply having a truncated-cone configuration as in JP'056 does not mean that cells are sealed. JP'056 simply discloses that the catalyst has an end face 2 that has a larger diameter than an end face 3. As illustrated by Figs. 1 and 2, JP'056 does not appear to seal any cells. Furthermore, JP'056 does not state

that any of the cells are sealed. JP'056 thus fails to disclose or suggest cells that are sealed.

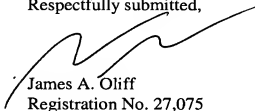
Gadkaree also does not disclose or suggest cells that are sealed.

It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: August 27, 2007

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